



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Two more Vikings

VIKING and Italian shipbuilding company Fincantieri have signed a contract for two new ocean ships, to be delivered in 2028 and 2029.

The new vessels will be based on the ships currently in Viking's oceangoing fleet, which have all also been built by Fincantieri.

The ships will be built at the new slightly larger size of 998 pax (**CW 28 Apr**), according to the latest environmental rules and navigation regulations and will be equipped with the most modern safety systems, Fincantieri said.

The vessels will be able to accommodate eco-friendly fuels and sustainable zero-emission power generation.

"This order further cements our relationship with Viking and establishes Fincantieri as the partner of choice for ship owners looking to build vessels fit for both current and future energy sources," Fincantieri Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Pierroberto Folgiero said.

"Fincantieri and Viking are leading the shipping industry in the path to net zero."

Greece cruise limits pointless

EXCLUSIVE

POTENTIAL cruise ship restrictions in Greece (**CW 17 Jun**) will not make a large difference in helping the country bring its inundated tourism industry under control, according to Greece & Mediterranean Travel Centre Managing Director Halina Kubica.

The industry leader told **Cruise Weekly** Greece's issues with tourism management extend beyond the cruise industry.

Although the situation has improved, introducing restrictions to the cruise industry will not provide greater balance, she said.

"I don't think it will make such a big difference," Kubica asserted.

"There is an issue of managing everything altogether, not in particular the cruise industry.

"I don't think limiting cruises... is going to make such a big change," she added.

Kubica said in the more than two decades she has run her business, she has seen improvements in Greece's ability to manage tourism, but agreed tackling the issue is hard.

She said cruises generally pose no capacity problem to Greece's most popular islands, such as Mykonos, Santorini, Crete and Rhodes, with only the smaller destinations lacking the requisite infrastructure to cope.

"Greece is generally doing a good job," Kubica assessed.

"We have to acknowledge the improvements in organising ferry

transfers...it's still not perfect, they had the huge rush post COVID, and obviously, it's hard to manage," Kubica added.

Cruise passengers may not deliver the same desired economic impact to Greece as other tourists do, she considered.

Many cruise itineraries that visit Greece depart from outside the country, and focus more on the most popular islands.

"Considering [cruises] are generally all-inclusive, there is not much people might come to buy," she said.

"They don't spend enough, they don't have time to enjoy local restaurants," Kubica added.

The Greece & Med head specialist said her company has witnessed an increase in demand for small-ship cruising, but noted Australians are taking land-based holidays in the country more than cruises by about four-fold.

More on **page 3**. *MS*

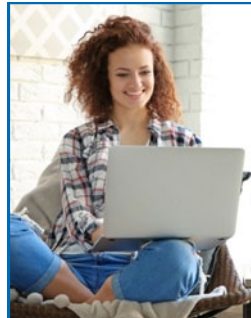
Atlas' new local GSA

CRUISE Traveller has been appointed as the exclusive Australian general sales agent for Atlas Ocean Voyages.

The small ship cruise specialist's MD Joseph O'Sullivan said he is thrilled to sell the exciting new product.

"Atlas Ocean Voyages is a fresh, new brand and through our extensive trade and consumer networks and by working with our retail agent partners, we plan to showcase the bold, intimate and in-depth experiences Atlas offers in special places around the world," he said.

"The small ship cruise market has expanded robustly and as experts in this space, Cruise Traveller is playing a pivotal role in navigating and sharing this growth with travel agents keen to capitalise on the segment's rising potential," O'Sullivan added.



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Celestyal backs restrictions in Greece

CELESTYAL Cruises Chief Executive Officer Chris Theophilides (**pictured**) has said his line supports the Government of Greece's desire for responsible tourism, which is reportedly set to see the country introduce restrictions to the industry (see **page 1**).

Theophilides said Celestyal, the largest line based in Greece, is united with its stakeholders in its collective approach to implement greater measures to ensure responsible tourism.

He said Celestyal joined a number of its fellow operators last year, as well as Cruise Lines International Association, to make representations to the Greek government for more sustainable local growth.

Celestyal is specifically backing measures including enhanced berthing request systems and scheduled visit times.



"We are united in a collective approach, both with our stakeholders and fellow cruise line operators, to introduce greater measures that ensure beautiful locations in Greece - and indeed across the world - are enjoyed by all."

"We are delighted the points we made at the Posidonia Sea Tourism Forum have been heard by the authorities, so that measures already in place in Santorini will be upheld and may now be extended to Mykonos,"

Theophilides said.

"Increasing [responsible tourism] measures will ensure tourists can enjoy marquee destinations responsibly, with fewer crowds and fewer pressures on the local communities," he added.

Theophilides applauded the Greek authorities' stance, and said Celestyal is ready to support their efforts.

"We must all bring responsible economic benefits to each of the regions we visit," he said. *MS*

MSC sustainability

MSC Cruises has published its 2023 Sustainability Report, which revealed an improvement of 6.5% in fleet carbon intensity across its namesake brand, as well as its new Explora Journeys line.

The latest progress marks a 37.8% total reduction since 2008, and has MSC on track to achieve the International Maritime Organization's target of a 40% reduction by the end of the decade.

Other highlights of the year saw MSC launch its second liquefied natural gas-powered vessel, *MSC Euribia*, which embarked on a net zero GHG emissions voyage from France to Denmark.

Shore power connections numbered 44 for MSC's eight ports in Norway, Germany, the UK and Malta, with a target of 220 by the end of the year.

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PORTRHOLE

MOST of us are guilty of planning the world's most expensive holidays in our minds - usually whenever a lotto jackpot comes up - but one Brit has just booked it.

Boasting a price tag of £1.7 million (A\$3.24m), the holiday of a lifetime begins with a round-the-world westbound adventure from Miami to New York City on Regent Seven Seas Cruises' *Seven Seas Splendor*.

The guests will stay in the Regent suite no less, which will include a complimentary cocktail party for eight and dinner with a senior officer.

On arrival in the Big Apple, a chauffeur will whisk the couple to The Mark Hotel for a week in the Penthouse at €60,000 (A\$114,000) per night, where Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle held her baby shower.

Naturally, business class flights across the Atlantic are included for the 140-day trip.

Pursuit arrives in Broome



SEABOURN Cruise Line's *Seabourn Pursuit* sailed into Broome for the first time on Sat.

The ship is cruising in the Kimberley for the first time on a series of 10-day voyages between Darwin and Broome between Jun and Aug.

President Natalya Leahy, and VP & GM Expedition Operations & Planning Robin West hosted a group of local government officials and stakeholders during an event to commemorate *Pursuit's* arrival and Seabourn's inaugural season in the region.

Western Australia's Minister for Tourism Rita Saffioti also discussed the significance of *Pursuit's* arrival for tourism in the

region, before attendees joined a ship tour and lunch on board.

Seabourn will make a donation to the Wunambal Gaambera, the Kimberley's traditional owners and godparents of *Pursuit* (CW 19 Apr), to develop a self-sustaining industry of producing authentic works of art and craft for local artists to sell.

The cruise line will also supply the Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation with pearl shells and various art supplies & polishing materials to foster sustainable, commercial arts and craft initiatives for its producers.

Pictured are Leahy, Member for Kimberley Divina D'Anna, and *Pursuit* Captain Ertan Vasvi. *MS*

Explora unveils its latest Anthology

EXPLORA Journeys has unveiled Anthology, its new Italian fine dining concept.

The seven-course tasting menu has been created by Head of Culinary Franck Garanger, with the menu billed as "a celebration of Italy's finest regional ingredients".

Menu highlights include Mediterranean seabass with Arabica coffee, and tonka bean and scallop cannelloni with black truffe.

The Anthology tasting menu is available at €140 per person, with an optional wine pairing at €60 per person.

"This will be a culinary reflection of the rich tapestry of the sights, scents and flavours of Italian cuisine, which I am deeply passionate about," Garanger said.

"For me, Italian cuisine is about respecting the people, the ingredients, and the traditions that have been passed down through generations...it's about sharing the soul of Italy, one dish at a time," he added.



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